

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended): A method of establishing the tandem free operation mode for a mobile station to mobile station and cell to cell call in a cellular mobile telephone system, ~~which the method includes a step of comprising~~ selecting a common coding mode for each mobile station and the selection of a common coding mode takes account of the traffic load in at least one cell.

2. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said common coding mode is selected on the basis of lists of coding modes supported by each mobile station and if the corresponding mobile station is in a busy cell the list of supported coding modes is shortened to eliminate therefrom the coding modes that consume the most resources.

3. (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein a common coding mode is selected on the basis of non-shortened lists of supported coding modes if no common coding mode can be selected on the basis of lists of supported coding modes at least one of which is a shortened list.

4. (original): A method according to claim 3, wherein the criterion for selecting a common coding mode on the basis of lists of coding modes supported by each mobile station is a quality optimization criterion.

5. (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein common coding modes for each mobile station are initially selected independently of each other and a list of supported

coding modes is shortened only if the coding mode initially selected for the corresponding mobile station is additionally one of the coding modes consuming the least resources.

6. (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein coding modes for each mobile station are initially selected independently of each other, the method further determines if the coding modes initially selected for each mobile station are identical, and:

- if they are identical, the corresponding coding mode constitutes said common coding mode, or
- if they are not identical, said common coding mode is selected on the basis of said lists of supported coding modes for each mobile station.

7. (original): A method according to claim 2, including at least one step during which an entity of said system handling the call for each mobile station communicates a list of supported coding modes for that mobile station to a like entity handling the call for the other mobile station and a subsequent step during which each entity selects a common coding mode on the basis of lists of supported coding modes for each mobile station and as a function of the same criterion.

8. (original): A method according to claim 6, including at least one step during which an entity of said system handling the call for each mobile station communicates a list of supported coding modes for that mobile station to a like entity handling the call for the other mobile station and a subsequent step during which each entity selects a common coding mode on the basis of lists of supported coding modes for each mobile station and as a function of the same criterion, and determines if the coding modes initially selected for each mobile station are identical.

9. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein said system ~~30~~ is GSM.

10. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said coding modes consuming the least resources is half-rate mode.

11. (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said coding modes consuming the most resources is full-rate mode.

12. (currently amended): A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said ~~5~~ coding modes consuming the most resources is enhanced full-rate mode.

13. (original): A cellular mobile telephone system for implementing a method according to claim 1, the system including, for establishing the tandem free operation mode for a mobile station to mobile station and cell to cell call, means for selecting a common coding mode for each mobile station taking account of the traffic load in at least one cell.

14. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein a common coding mode is selected for a transcoder of each mobile station.

15. (previously presented): A method according to claim 4, wherein a full rate (FR) or an enhanced full rate (EFR) mode is selected as a common mode for quality optimization criterion if FR and EFR mode is supported in common by each mobile station.

16. (previously presented): A method according to claim 2, wherein the list of supported coding modes is shortened to half-rate (HR) mode if the coding mode initially selected for a mobile station is HR mode and the corresponding cell is busy.

17. (previously presented): A method according to claim 16, wherein the cell is busy if a quantity of resources allocated in the cell during a given period is greater than a given threshold.

18. (previously presented): A method according to claim 3, wherein said non-shortened list comprises coding modes HR, FR and EFR.

19. (previously presented): A method according to claim 1, wherein said common coding mode selected for each mobile station, for a mobile station to mobile station and cell to cell call, establishes tandem free operation.

20. (previously presented): An entity operable in a cellular mobile communication system, operable to establish a tandem free operation mode for a mobile station-to-mobile station and cell-to-cell call in said system, said entity being in charge of said call for a given one of said mobile stations, said entity comprising:

means for shortening a list of supported coding modes for said given mobile station, to be communicated to a peer entity in charge of said call for the other one of said mobile stations, to eliminate therefrom the coding modes that consume the most resources, if said given mobile station is in a loaded cell, and

means for communicating said list to said peer entity.

21. (previously presented): An entity according to claim 20, wherein said means for shortening said list of supported coding modes further comprises means for shortening said list only if a coding mode initially selected for said given mobile station is one of the coding modes consuming the least resources.

22. (previously presented): An entity operable in a cellular mobile communication system, operable to establish tandem free operation mode for a mobile station-to-mobile station and cell-to-cell call in said system, said entity is in charge of said call for a given one of said mobile stations, said entity comprising:

means for selecting a common coding mode for each of said mobile stations,

means for taking into account the traffic load in at least one of said cells for said selection of a common coding mode.